

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

ABERYYRON
CARDIGANSHIRE.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

1952

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

I. Morgan Watkin, Ph.D.(Lond.), M.Sc., M.B.,
B.Ch., D.P.H.(Wales).

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Dyfrig O. Davies, Cert. S.I.B.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Aberayron Rural District Council.

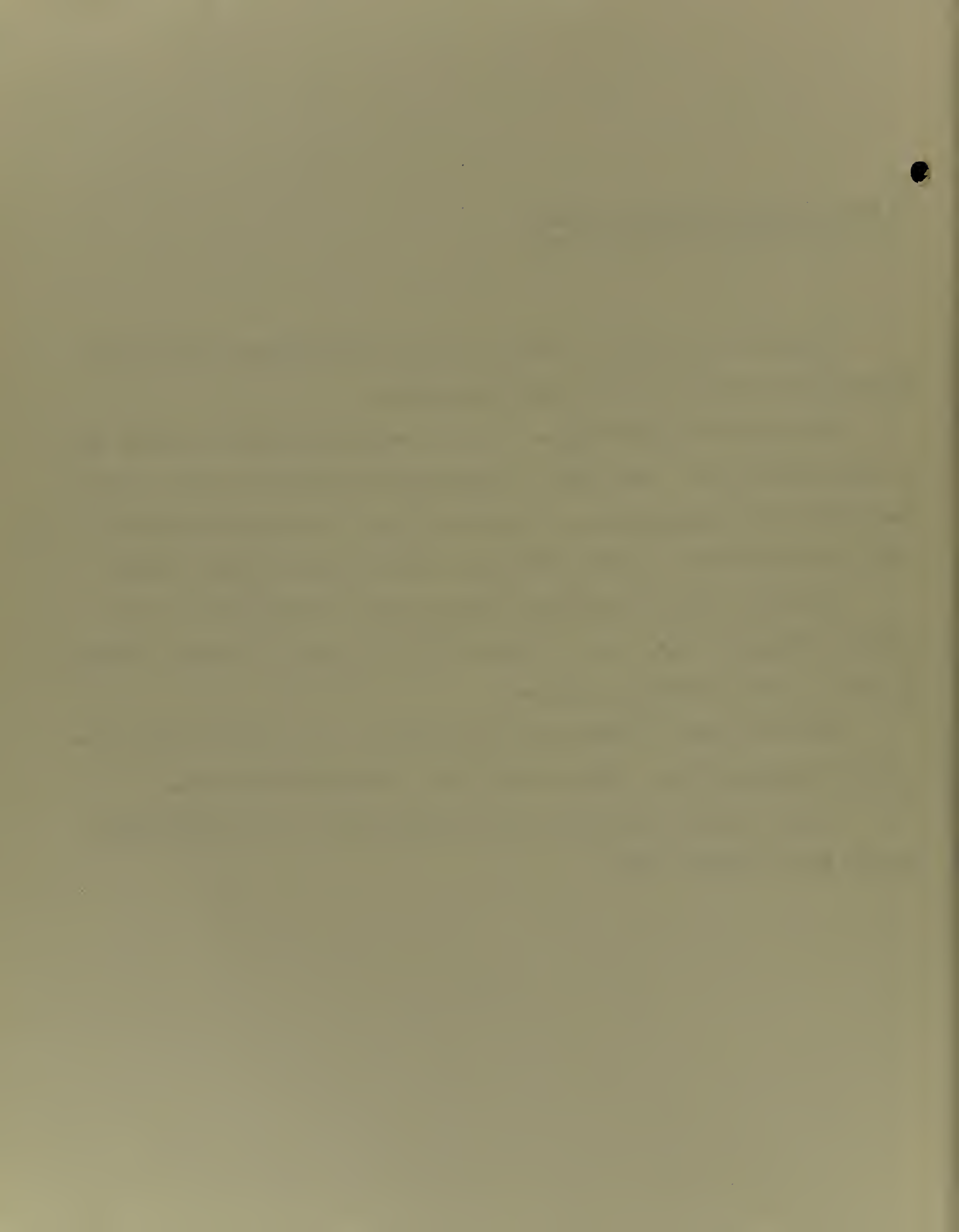
It gives me pleasure to present to you the Annual Report of the Health Department for the year ended December 31st, 1952.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 145 - ten fewer than in the previous year. The number of registered live births was 128 - also ten fewer than in the previous year. One mother died as a result of childbirth, seven infants were stillborn and six infants died under the age of twelve months.

Forty five cases of infectious disease, other than tuberculosis, were notified during the year. Most of these related to cases of measles. There was no case of serious infectious disease.

Seven new cases of tuberculosis, all but one of the pulmonary type, were notified during the year. Five of these were in the 20-30 age group.

A more detailed commentary on the various aspects of the public health appears in the ensuing pages.

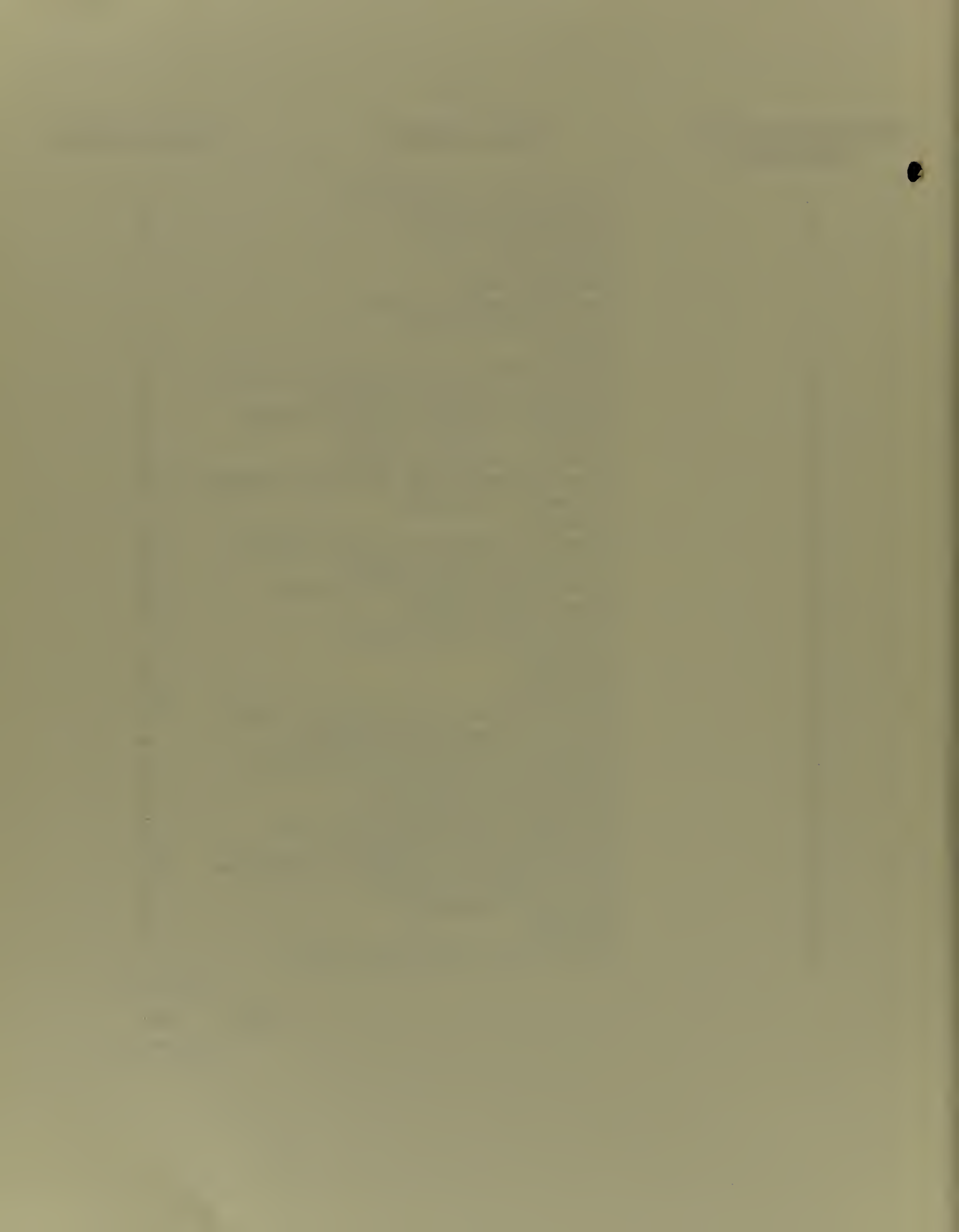


SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	97,810
Population (Census 1931)	10,125
Population (mid-year 1952)	9,285
Rateable value (at 1st April, 1952)	£17,188
Sum represented by a penny rate	£70

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number of registered live births (Legitimate	122	65	57
(Illegitimate	6	4	2
Number of registered stillbirths (Legitimate	6	4	2
(Illegitimate	1	1	-
Number of registered deaths	145	91	54
Number of deaths of women ascribed to childbirth	1	-	1
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year (Legitimate	5	3	2
(Illegitimate	1	1	-
Number of deaths of infants under 1 month (Legitimate	4	2	2
(Illegitimate	1	1	-

<u>Registrar-General's</u> <u>Code Number</u>	<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	-
3	Syphilitic disease	-
4	Diphtheria	-
5	Whooping cough	-
6	Meningococcal infections	-
7	Acute poliomyelitis	-
8	Measles	-
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	4
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-
14	Other lymphatic and malignant neoplasms	16
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1
16	Diabetes	-
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	15
18	Coronary disease, angina	11
19	Hypertension with heart disease	1
20	Other heart disease	43
21	Other circulatory disease	2
22	Influenza	-
23	Pneumonia	2
24	Bronchitis	10
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	-
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	4
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	5
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1
31	Congenital malformations	1
32	Other defined and illdefined diseases	19
33	Motor vehicle accidents	-
34	All other accidents	2
35	Suicide	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	-
Total		145

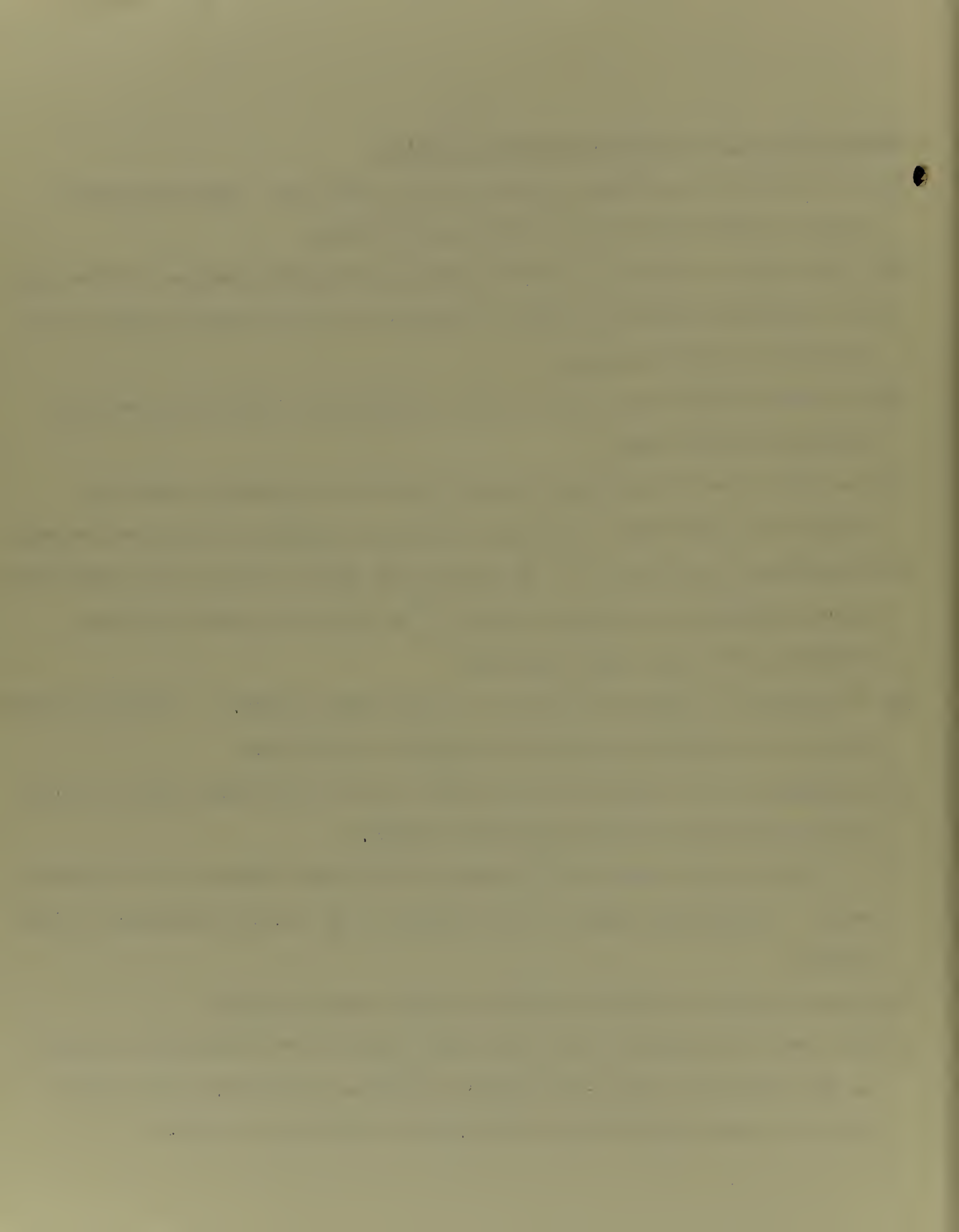


General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

- (a) No ante-natal or post-natal clinic is held in the area. Expectant mothers receive advice from their own medical practitioners.
- (b) Infant welfare clinics are held fortnightly at Aberayron, Lampeter and New Quay.
- (c) The domiciliary midwifery service is carried out by the district nurses who are also state registered nurses.
- (d) The health visitors who cover the area are stationed at Cross Inn, Lampeter, Llandyssul and New Quay.
- (e) The area is covered by district nurses stationed at Aberayron, Cross Inn, Lampeter (2), Llanarth, Llanrhystyd, Llanwenog, Felinfach, New Quay and Pennant.
- (f) Vaccination is carried out by the person's own medical attendant but immunisation against diphtheria is performed partly by the former and partly by medical officers of the local health authority.
- (g) No ambulance is stationed in the area of the local authority. The Rural District is served by ambulances stationed at Lampeter and New Quay.
- (h) Arrangements for the prevention of illness consist in periodic talks and advice given by the staff of the local health authority.

Care and after care is in the hands of the health visitor and the district nurse. Tuberculosis cases are also followed up by the Chest Physician's health visitor.

- (i) Domestic help is provided by suitable persons engaged locally.
- (j) The town of Aberystwyth is the centre upon which the principal general hospital in the county, the infectious diseases' hospital, the maternity home and the Medical Research Council's Area Public Health Laboratory are based.



INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following is a list of the notifications of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, received during the year.

Cholera..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Dysentery (amoebic and bacillary)					..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Encephalitis..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Food poisoning	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Malaria..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Measles..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Meningococcal meningitis				..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Ophthalmia neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Paratyphoid fever..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Pneumonia (acute primary and acute influenzal)	..	..								8
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Puerperal pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Relapsing fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Smallpox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Typhoid fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Typhus fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Whooping cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

Total 45

WATER SUPPLIES

Samples of water for bacteriological analysis are regularly taken from the major schemes. A source yielding unsatisfactory results is inspected and suitable remedial measures are advised.

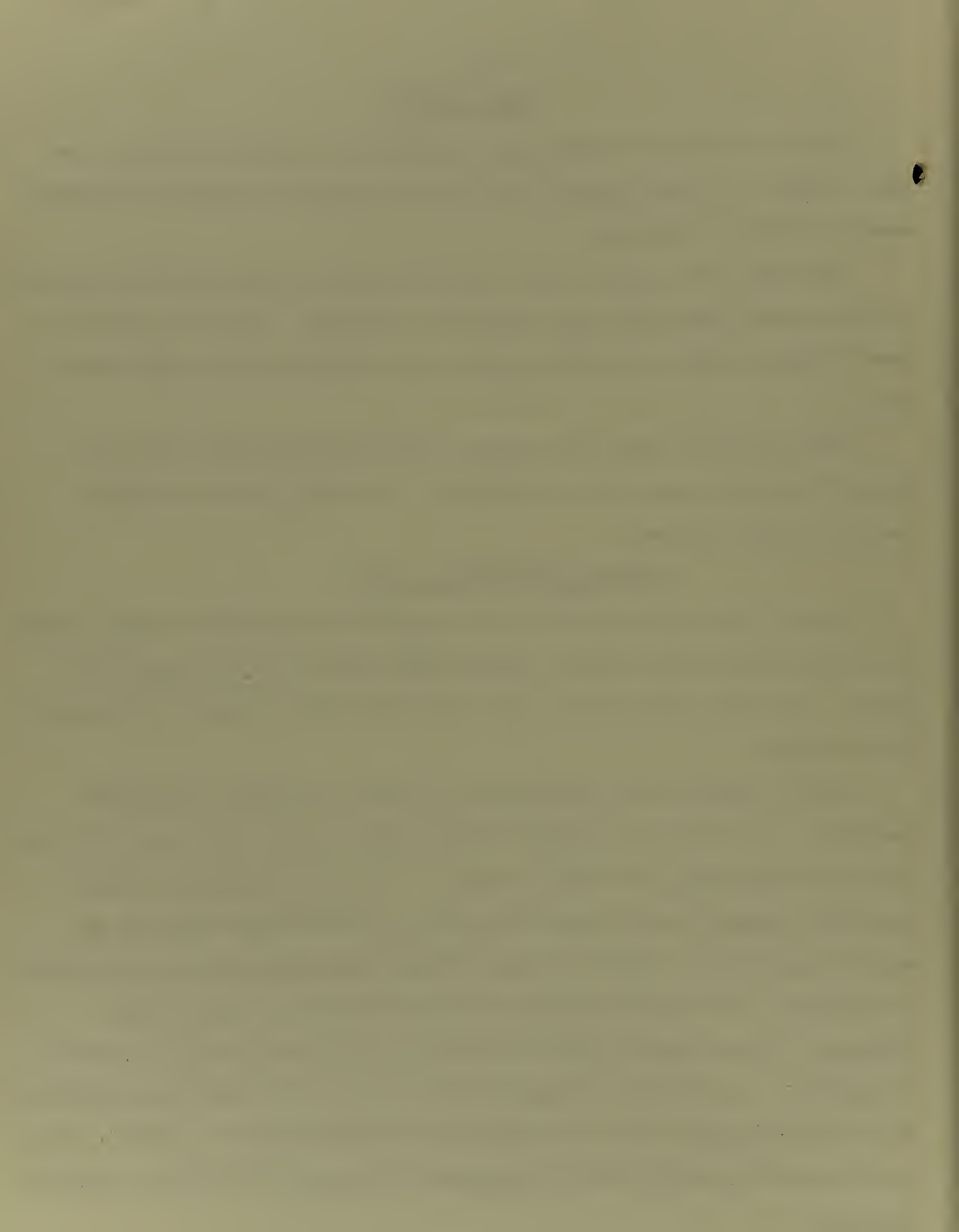
Applications for consent to use water for domestic purposes under the Ministry of Agriculture's grant-aided water schemes are considered. Where the results are unsatisfactory, further protective measures are recommended before consent can be given.

During the year several water schemes yielded unsatisfactory results, the principal offenders being Llanon and Dihewid. The Council undertook remedial measures in both instances.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Case (a) from Llanon, aged 78 years, referred to in last year's Annual Report, was detained under renewed orders of three months each for a total period of six months. Thereafter she agreed to stay at the Welfare Home and gave up the tenancy of her cottage.

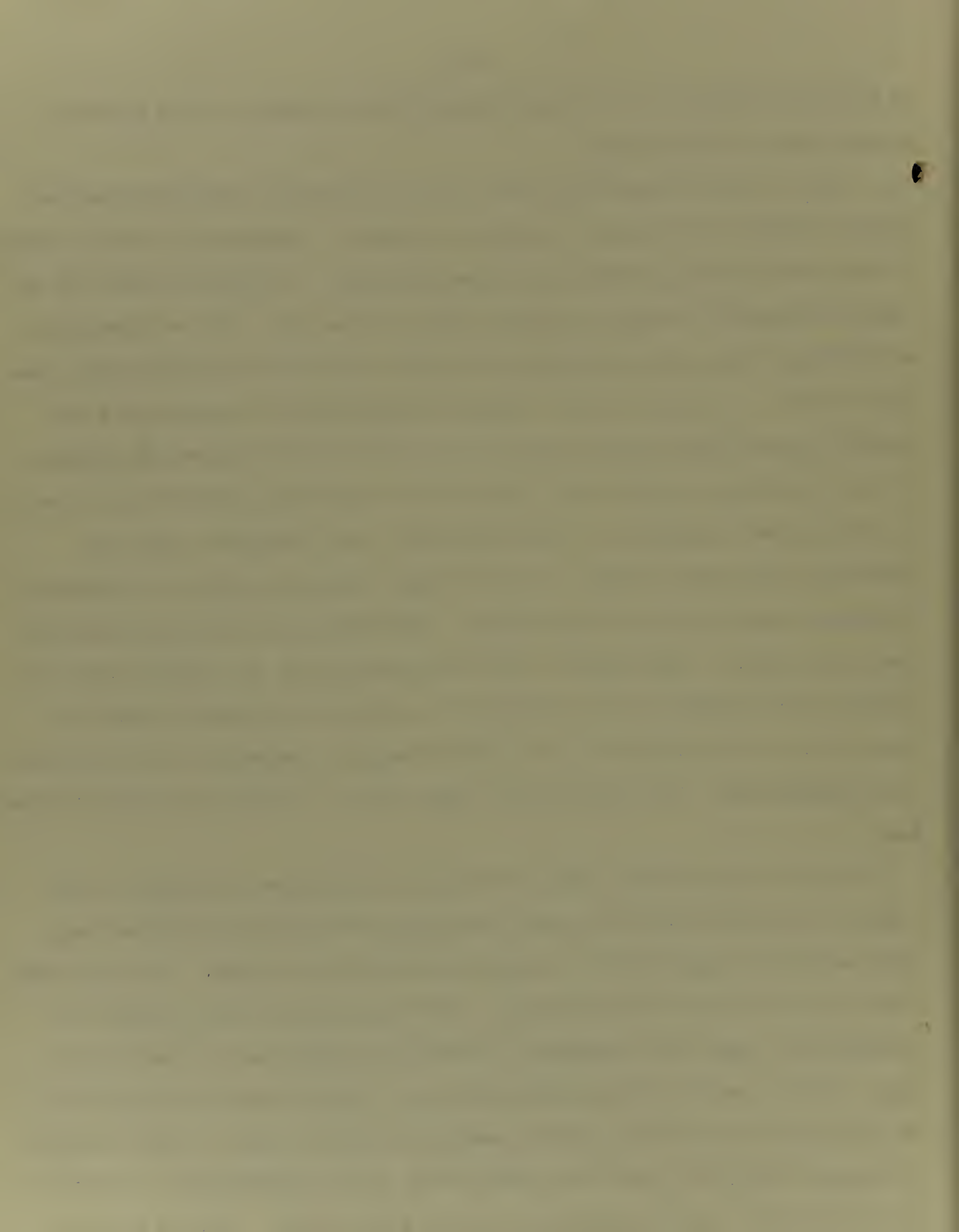
Case (b) aged 66 years from Pennant was found to be living in insanitary conditions. Her left leg was grossly swollen and was covered with a mass of ulcers. She covered both these and her feet in sacks. She was not registered with any doctor and, although I made special application to the Executive Council on her behalf to place her on a doctor's list, no doctor practising in the area was prepared to accept her. The reason for this was that she refused to receive medical attention. It was obvious, after an interview at her house, that the case was one of insanity. I, therefore, arranged for her to be seen by a consulting psychiatrist of the Regional Hospital Board who advised her immediate removal to hospital. She was accordingly certified under the Lunacy Acts and removed to St. David's Hospital, Carmarthen.



It was later discovered that she had previously been a patient at this hospital, before moving to Cardiganshire.

Case (c) aged 89 years from Llanon, also living alone, persistently wandered upon the highway and had nearly met with an accident. Corroborative written evidence to this effect had been received from several sources. At night her front door was tied by neighbours with rope so that she could not come out. Her own doctor drew my attention to the case stating that, at present, she was not receiving proper care and attention. Her next of kin, a nephew from South Wales, was sent for by the District Welfare Officer and he offered to take her back with him but she refused. In the circumstances, he felt that a Home was the only proper place for her to be in. By this time her condition was deteriorating and a mild confusional state was beginning to demonstrate itself. Her own doctor and myself applied to a Justice of the Peace to remove her to a Welfare Home. The Justice found the facts proved and granted the Order. After about a week at the Welfare Home, her conduct became such that the Medical Officer of the Institution was obliged to certify her under the Lunacy Acts. She was removed to St. David's Hospital, Carmarthen, where she settled down satisfactorily. She appeared quite happy when an old friend from Llanon visited her.

Case (d), aged 88 years, from the outskirts of Aberayron was brought to the notice of the Council under the normal provisions of the National Assistance Act, 1948, Authority to apply for her removal was granted by the Council. She was living alone and had not been to bed for years. Her known relatives were contacted, in particular her nephew from Llanrhystyd who tried to persuade her to accept a Home Help. He also tried to obtain accommodation in a nursing home, but the matron was of opinion that she could not give the necessary attention, owing to staff shortage. The nephew, thereafter, wrote to me stating that, in the circumstances, her removal to a Welfare Home would be carried out with his full consent. The case was heard



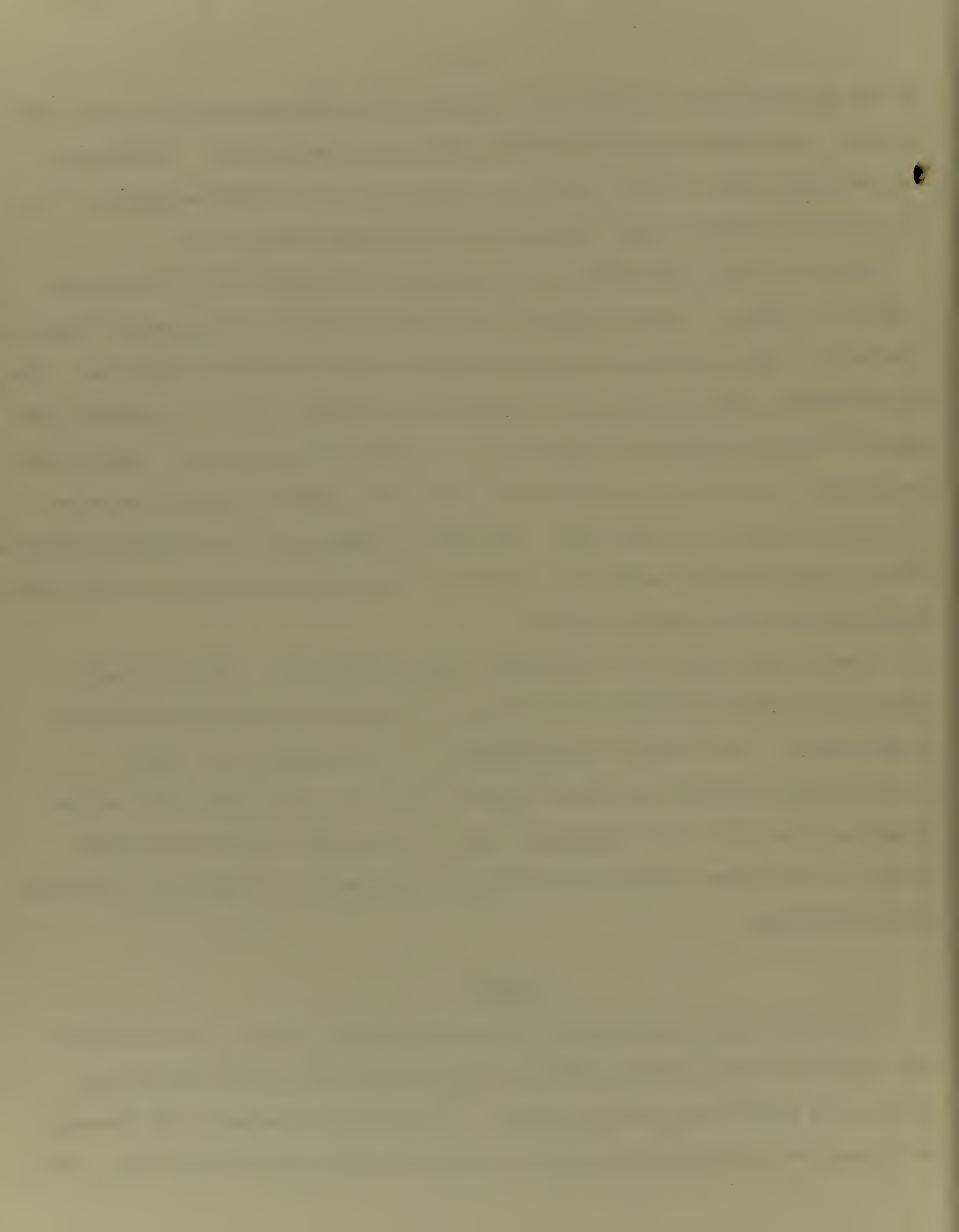
by the Aberayron bench of magistrates and supporting evidence was given by the lady's doctor. An order for her removal was granted by the magistrates. On admission to the Welfare Home, she was found to be verminous and in a filthy condition. In a few weeks her condition deteriorated and she died from natural causes.

Case (e) in the late sixties from Caerwedros was brought to my notice by the lady's own doctor. She had suffered from a heart attack and was in need of hospital treatment. She was living alone and at some distance from other habitations. When the ambulance arrived to take her to hospital, she refused to go. An urgency order under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, was sought by the lady's doctor and myself. A Justice of the Peace found the facts proved and granted the order for the full period of three weeks. She was, thereupon, moved to Tanybwllch hospital. After treatment lasting some weeks, relatives of hers agreed to take her to live with them and she is now properly cared for.

Several other cases were kept under regular observation. These included a 90 year old retired clergyman from Drefach who was living alone and another lady from Pennant. The clergyman eventually entered the Lampeter Welfare Home voluntarily and informed the County Welfare Officer at a later stage that, had he known that there was such a comfortable place in the Welfare Home, he would have entered it years ago! The lady from Pennant was taken in and cared for by relatives near Aborystwyth.

GENERAL

The usual weekly and quarterly records of infectious disease were forwarded to the Registrar-General and the monthly records of tuberculosis notifications were transmitted to the County Medical Officer. The records of admission and discharge of tuberculous patients from hospital were examined and suitable action taken. The



monthly death returns from the District Registrars of Births and Deaths were sorted and the lists of Transferable Deaths checked. Discrepancies were notified to the Registrar-General.

A number of complaints, both oral and written, were investigated and suitable action was taken.

Reports required by the Welsh Office of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government were also prepared during the year.

CONCLUSION

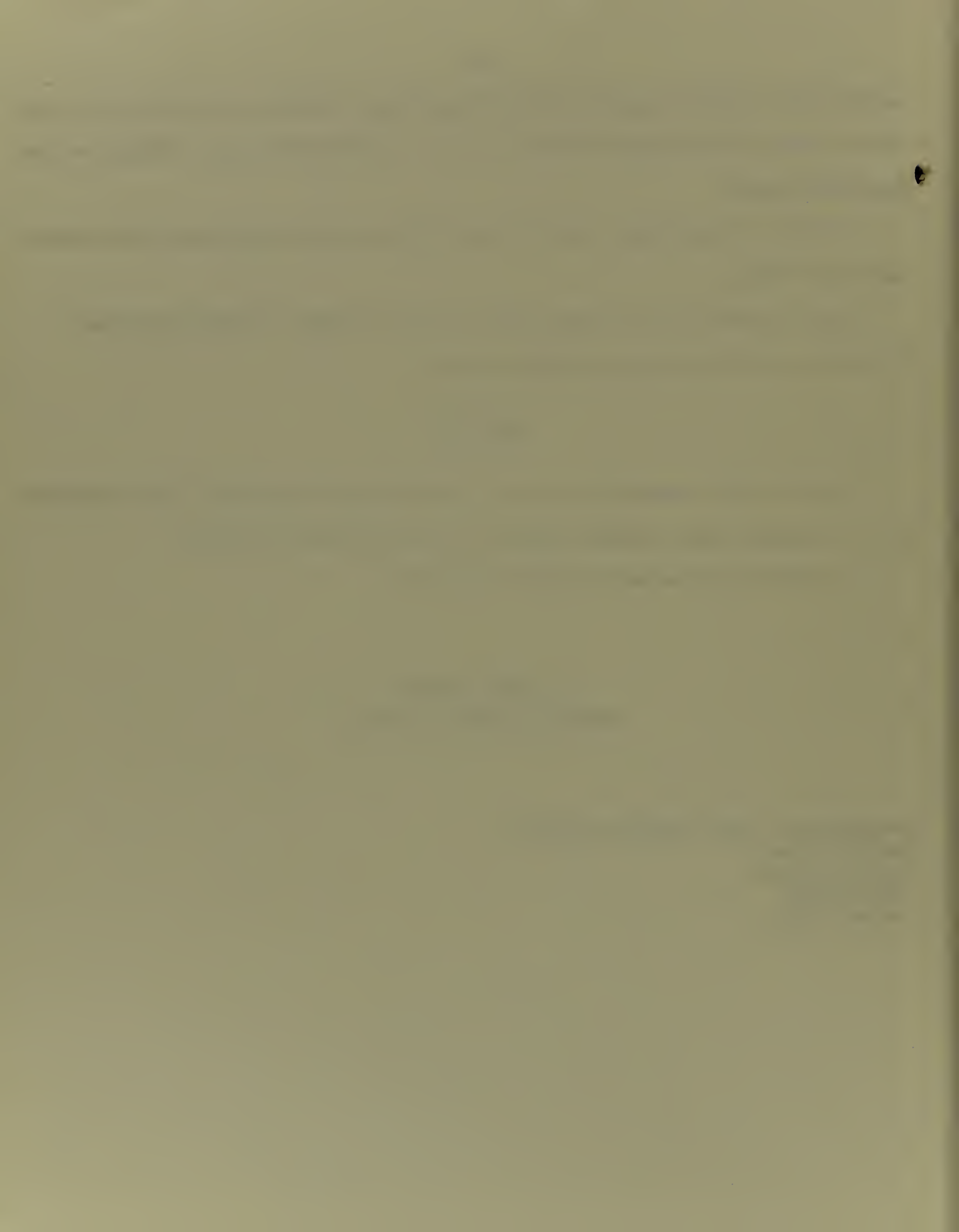
From the vital statistics it may be inferred that the health of the community in the Aberayron Rural District Council's area continues to be good.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report is appended.

I. MORGAN WATKIN.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Cardiganshire Joint District Councils,
Swyddfa'r Sir,
Marine Terrace,
ABERYSTWYTH.
August, 1953.



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ABERAYRON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

1. Drainage and Sewerage.

Village Sewerage Schemes in the Aberayron Rural District are non-existent.

It is gratifying however to see steps being taken to provide public sewers to so small a village even as Talsarn where the scheme is being constructed in conjunction with the Council's Housing Programme for the Village.

Progress, although not as rapid as we would wish, has been made to secure a scheme for Llanon, the largest village.

During 1952 sixteen applications were granted for the conversion of earth closets to the water carriage system.

2. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The Council's lorry collects refuse once fortnightly in the larger villages and once monthly in the more scattered rural communities.

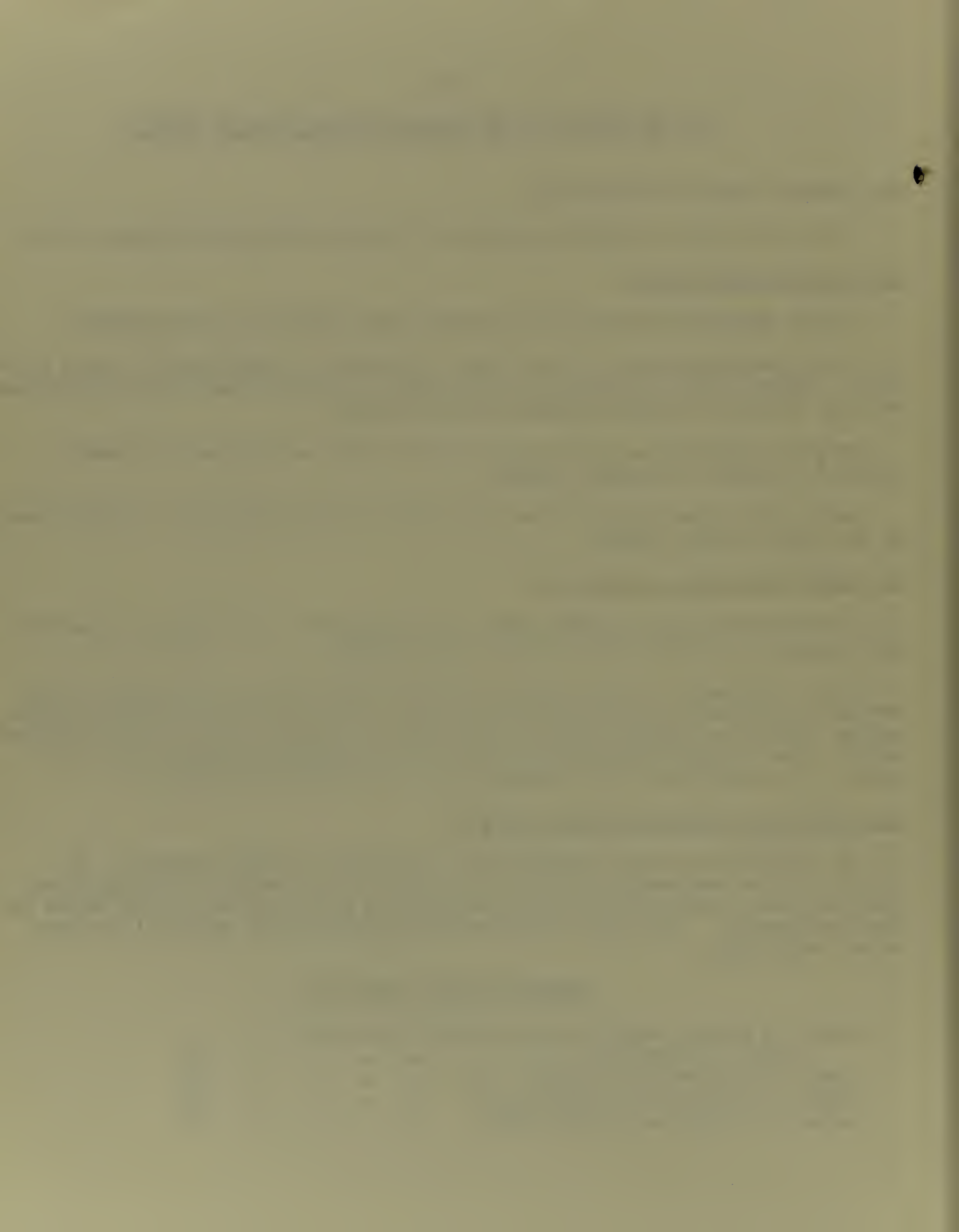
While the financial implications are appreciated it must be stated that refuse should be collected in all villages once a week. This could be a big step towards ending unauthorised dumping which is particularly prevalent in rivers and along their banks. The villagers' difficulty is often that of storing domestic refuse for a period of two weeks and in some instances one month before collection.

3. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

In July 1952 the Council appointed Mr. John Evans as Rodent Operator. In addition to the treatment of premises, the operator was occupied in administering the provisions of the Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks Regulations 1950 during the Threshing Season. There was no case of non-compliance which warranted statutory action being taken.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT

Number of Private dwelling houses treated and cleared of	
Rodent Infestation	382
Number of inspections of Farms	66
Number of inspections of Refuse Tips	84
Number of treatments to Refuse Tips	16



4. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number of Inspections of dwelling houses	82
Number of Inspections of milk rooms	28
Number of Inspections of milk vehicles	38
Number of Inspections of meat shops	26
Number of Inspections of restaurant kitchens	23
Number of Inspections of places where ice cream is sold	32
Number of houses visited upon Notification of Infectious Diseases	6
Number of houses disinfected after infectious diseases	4

Notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Number of informal Notices served	25
Number of informal Notices complied with	25
Number of Statutory Notices served	Nil

H O U S I N G.

5. (I) Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts)	18
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(II) Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	12
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(III) Action under Statutory Powers.

No proceedings were taken during 1952.

(IV) Estimated number of dwelling houses which in normal times be condemned	20
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6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(I) Articles of food which were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption:-

<u>Article of Food</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Cause of Condemnation</u>
Bacon	46½ lbs.	decomposition
Danish Gruyer Cheese	4½ lbs.	mould.

(II) Two meat shops in the District which were unsuitable for the sale of meat were closed during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

Schemes for the supply of water for the villages of Cellan, Cross Inn, Llanon and Oakford were well under way and nearing completion at the end of the year.

Small extension schemes to supply groups of premises were undertaken by direct labour as follows:-

Llanwnen - Capel-y-Groes
Llanfair Road
Ffosyffin - Newgate
Maesymoillion
Troedyrhiw, Cribyn.

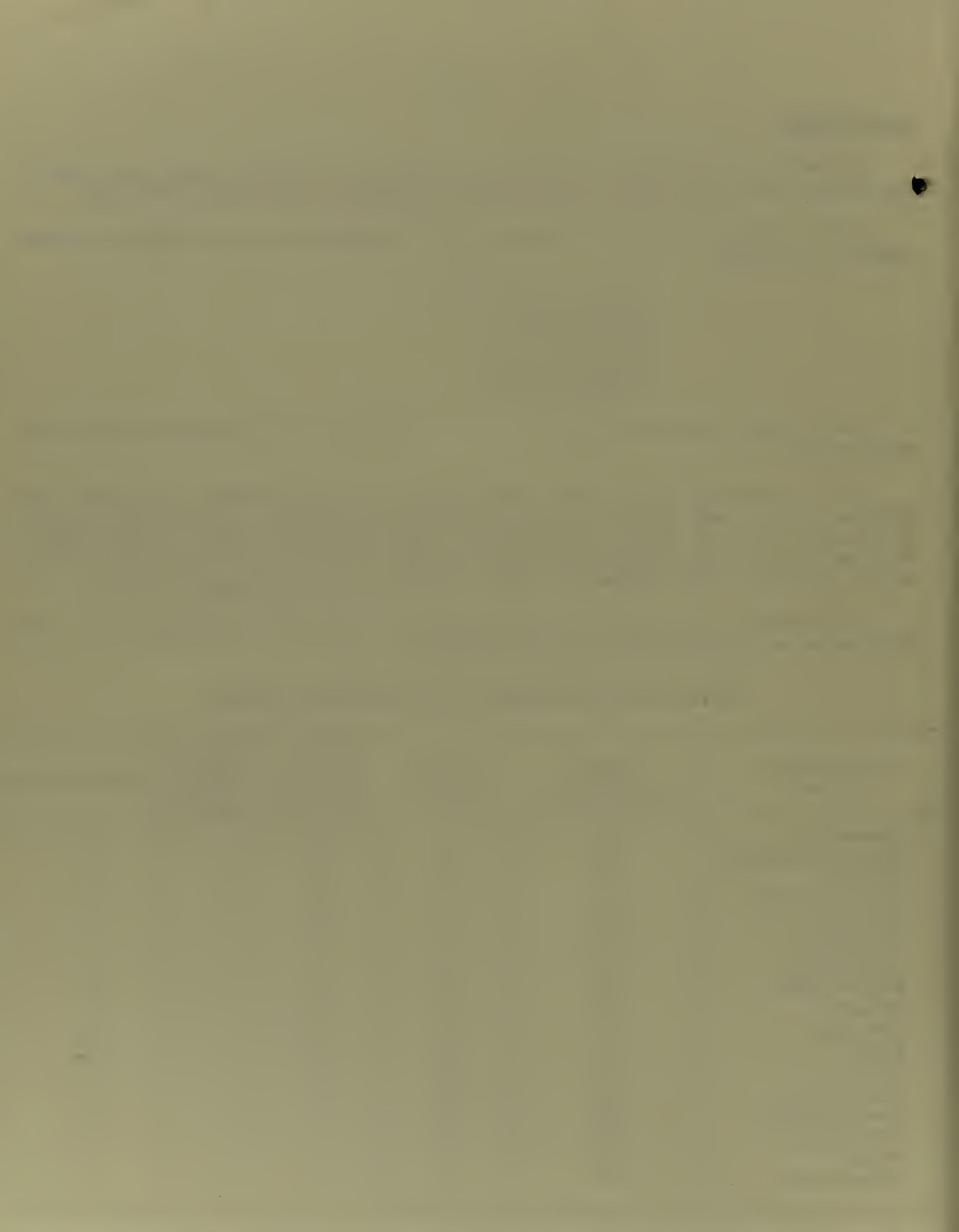
One hundred and seventeen applications to connect to the Council's water mains were approved.

Of the remaining areas, where there is serious need for water, it is hoped that progress will be made during the next year towards providing a piped supply of water to Llangybi and areas in the Llanwenog, Llanwnen and Lampeter Rural Parishes which will be served by the Ffynnonrhys Scheme. Bethania's salvation rests on the advent of the Llyn Fanod Water Scheme which the Council are endeavouring to achieve.

Two hundred and twenty water samples for bacteriological examination were taken from mains and private supplies in the district.

REPORTS ON BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF SAMPLES.

Water Supply Scheme	Highly Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Slight surface Contamination	Heavy surface contamination	Unsatisfactory
Nantmeddal	9	-	-	-	-
Llanfair Clydogau	6	1	-	-	-
Llanwnen	7	2	2	-	2
Trefilan School	4	-	-	-	-
Ffynnonocr	6	-	-	-	-
Talgarreg	6	-	1	1	-
Cwmsychpant	5	-	-	-	-
Ciliau Aeron	5	-	1	1	-
Dihowyd	5	2	2	-	10
Hydroilyn	5	-	-	-	-
Llanon	3	5	2	-	12
Cribyn	5	-	-	-	-
Ffynnonberw	4	1	1	-	-
Llanfair Road	6	1	-	-	-
Cwrtnewydd	5	-	-	-	-
Pisgah	5	-	-	-	-
Alltyblacca	2	-	-	1	-



DIHEWID

Cattle had broken into enclosure at the source of supply also the overflow pipe from the reservoir had become choked with resulting impediment of the free flow from the springs increasing pollution. Necessary work immediately carried out. Consumers advised to boil water before drinking.

LLANON

Much the same trouble at Llanon. Work done - diversion of surface water, reconstruction of collecting chamber, replacement of feed pipes from spring. Reinforcement of enclosure fencing.

LLANWNEN

One of the feed springs located on land of Pentre Rhys proved to be polluted - permanently cut off from reservoir. Result - considerable improvement. Scheme however troublesome - will become redundant with the coming of Ffynnonrhys water.

TALGARREG

Surface water diverted and suspected spring with low yield cut off. Quality has since been of high standard.

CILIAU AERON

Surface water diverted.

H O U S I N G

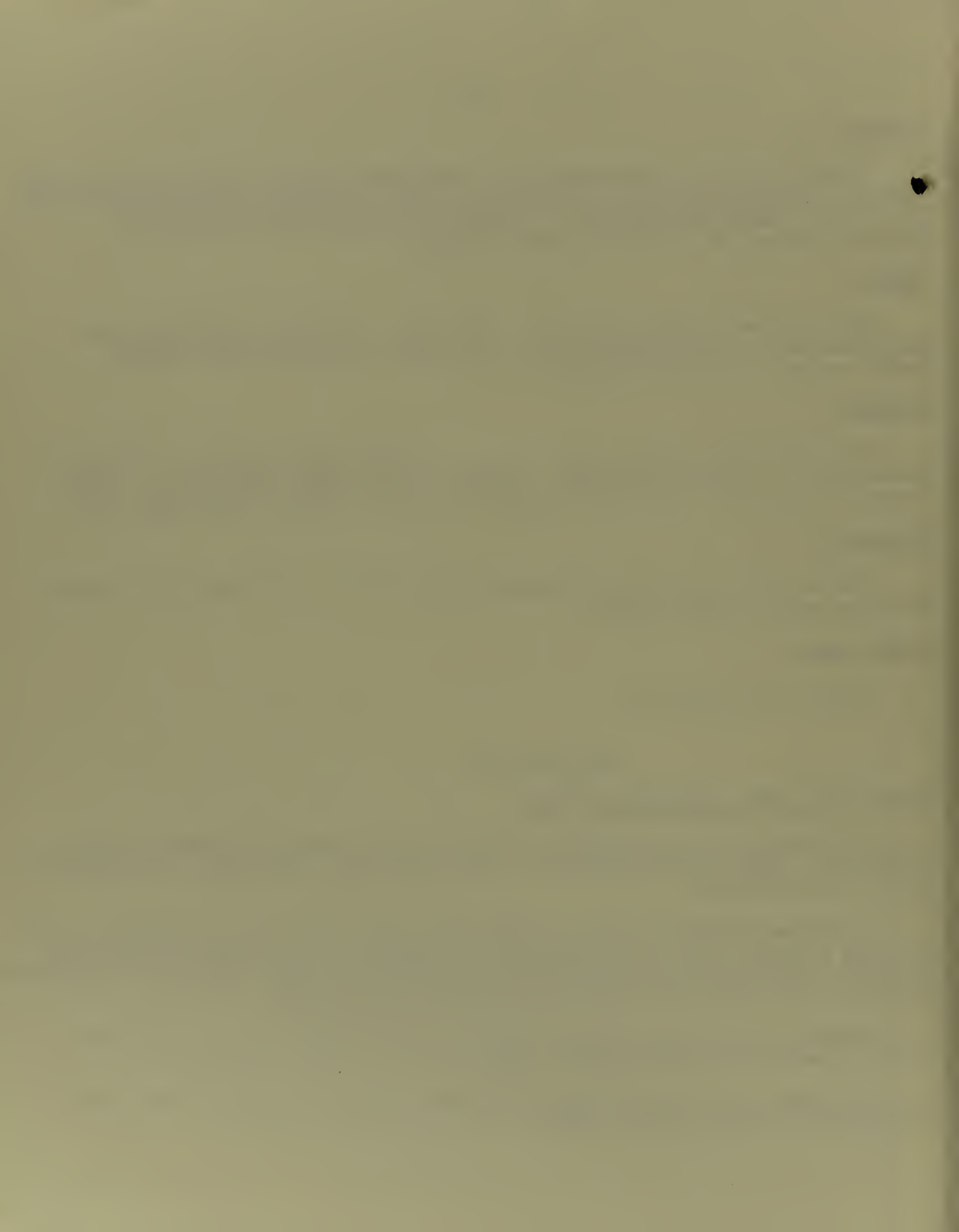
Housing Act, 1949, Improvement Grants

Applications for the improvement of five dwelling houses qualified for Grant during 1952, under relevant Sections of the Housing Act, 1949, which are administered by the County Council.

A welcomed amendment to the Act which came into operation on 1st November, 1952, entitled property owners to claim grants for improvement work costing between £150 and £800. Prior to this the qualifying expenditure was £100 to £600 where prospective grantees often failed due to the present high building costs.

Twenty two houses were completed by the Council during the year and 76 were under construction on 31st December, 1952.

One house was erected by private enterprise during the year and 8 were under construction on 31st December, 1952.



Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

The register of Factories has now been compared with that of the H. M. Inspector of Factories and brought up to date.

Factories where Mechanical Power is used number 20, while there are 12 Factories where Mechanical Power is not used.

It has not been possible to carry out inspections of all premises, but it is hoped to submit a full report on this aspect of the work at a later date.

DYFRIG O. DAVIES, Cert. S.I.B.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices,
1, North Road,
ABERYRON,
Cardiganshire.

